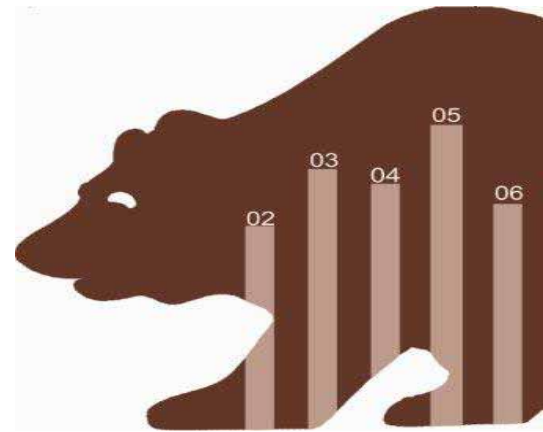


# BEAR FACTS

Issues, Trends, Tools, & Information from  
California State Parks' Planning Division



November 2006


## Chief's Column

### Planning Division Creates Recreation Unit and Consolidates General Plans Unit

The California State Parks' Planning Division consolidated the General Plan Unit into the Planning Division and added a new Recreation Unit that will focus on enhancing recreation use in our State Park System units and public access to recreation areas, facilities and programs.

The Planning Division leads the Department's technical assistance program, manages the development of the statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan to meet the requirements of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, guides the statewide trail plan implementation, and manages the division program staff.

The Planning Division is concentrating on system-wide plans, trend analysis, recreation and trail plans, technical assistance, general plan development, special project plans, and supports the Recreational Trails Committee and the California State Park and Recreation Commission.

California State Parks' Planning Division provides technical support for the management and development of California's public park and recreation lands and facilities. 

### Prop 84 Water/Flood/ Park Bond Approved

*Californians supported all five  
infrastructure bonds on the ballot*

**Proposition 84 provides \$400 million for the development and rehabilitation of state parks, including deferred maintenance.**

The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006, an initiative statute adopted by the voters at the November 7, 2006, statewide general election, makes \$400,000,000 in bond funds available to California State Parks for development, acquisition, interpretation, restoration, and rehabilitation of the State Park System and its natural, historical, and visitor serving resources.

Environmentalists qualified the measure for the Nov. 2006 ballot, Governor Schwarzenegger endorsed it and campaigned for it, and it won.

By approving Proposition 84, the Water/Flood/Park Bond: 53.8% to 46.2%, the California State Park System will have \$400 million invested from the \$5.4 billion water and parks bond.

Californians approved a record investment of \$42 billion on Election Day. The infrastructure bond package, Propositions 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, and 1E, will build roads, schools, levees and housing over the next 10 years in California.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## **Governor Schwarzenegger Signs Legislation to Fight Obesity and Promote a Healthier California**

Gov. Schwarzenegger will likely make access to health care a top priority and unveil a major health-care plan in January 2007. While on NBC's "Meet the Press" on Nov. 26, the Governor signaled his intent to build on this year's successes over the next four years – with a bold, bipartisan, progressive agenda.

From a public policy standpoint, the administration is working on various different ideas to bring down the health care costs and make it more affordable to provide health care.

In winning his landslide re-election victory, 56 percent to 39 percent, Gov. Schwarzenegger won 45 percent of the union household vote; and garnered an amazing 27 percent of the African-American vote, 39 percent of the Latino vote, and 62 percent of the Asian-American vote.

Legislative leaders have also outlined an ambitious agenda for 2007, with access to health care for the six million uninsured Californians at the top of their list.

In 2006, the Governor signed legislation to make California a national model for healthy living: AB 2384 (Leno), that requires the State Department of Health Services to develop a "Healthy Food Purchase" pilot program to provide incentives to increase purchases of fresh fruits and vegetables in low-income communities.

The Governor also signed diabetes screening legislation: AB 2226 (Garcia) requires, by 2010, that each school district provide a State Department of Education *Fact Sheet on Type 2 Diabetes* to parents of incoming 7th graders. Type 2 Diabetes among children is relatively new and parents may not be aware that children are at risk.

## **California State Parks Supports Governor's Health, Nutrition and Obesity Priorities**

When California State Parks inaugurated *Take a Hike – City Walks Sacramento* and *City Walks San Diego*, the easy way to walk-it-off and get fit programs were endorsed by the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

State Parks kicked-off the program in 2005 with Secretary for Resources Mike Chrisman, State Parks Director Ruth Coleman and dozens of walkers taking on their historic first walk together around the State Capitol. Expanded to San Diego in 2006, other local cities and counties are now interested in creating *Take a Hike – City Walks* programs in their communities.

## **California Obesity Prevention Plan: A Vision for Tomorrow, Strategic Actions for Today**

In 2006, Gov. Schwarzenegger also released a new California Obesity Strategic Plan that lays out the steps needed to address the obesity epidemic. Through a united effort from the public, private, philanthropic and voluntary sectors, the plan expands beyond government and lays out strategies for many different sectors to help create a shift to healthy eating and active living.

Created with input from a number of advisory groups and forums, the healthy eating plan identifies recommendations for action for sustainable changes in physical activity and food environments statewide.

Sources:

Take a Hike – City Walks Sacramento:

[www.parks.ca.gov/takeahike](http://www.parks.ca.gov/takeahike)

Take a Hike – City Walks San Diego:

[www.co.san-diego.ca.us/parks/walks](http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us/parks/walks)

Governor's Council on Physical Fitness:

[www.calgovcouncil.org](http://www.calgovcouncil.org)

California Obesity Prevention Plan:

[www.dhs.ca.gov/CAObesityPrevention](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/CAObesityPrevention) 



### **PROTECTING OUR COAST AND OCEAN: *Three Pacific Coast Governors Announce Historic Partnership to Safeguard Ocean***

Working together, the Governors of California, Oregon, and Washington on Sept. 18, 2006 announced an historic partnership for ocean and coastal resource protection along the Pacific Coast. The governors said they expect to announce initial recommendations and initiatives for regional action by early 2007.

“Just as our western states have started to work together to fight global warming and protect our air, we now join forces to make sure we are doing everything in our power to maintain clean water and beaches along our coast,” said Gov. Schwarzenegger.

The bipartisan effort was announced in Long Beach to more than 1,000 attendees of “California and the World Ocean ’06,” by Gov. Schwarzenegger, who was joined by fellow governors, Oregon’s Ted Kulongoski and Washington’s Chris Gregoire, via live satellite from Portland.

The regional agreement will forge a long-term partnership to tap world-class experts in each state and tackle challenges facing the ocean and coast to ensure clean coastal waters and beaches; protect and restore healthy ocean and coastal habitats; promote effective ecosystem-based management of ocean and coastal resources; reduce adverse impacts from offshore development; expand ocean and coastal scientific information, research, and monitoring; increase ocean awareness

among tri-state residents; and foster sustainable economic development in coastal communities.

Under the collaborative agreement, the three states intend to work together to create mechanisms for sharing lessons learned from local, urban, county, and statewide conservation and restoration programs. Through expansion of cooperative scientific and educational efforts on issues of regional significance, they hope to coordinate management strategies and approaches for coastal and marine resources with regional significance, as well as to engage Congress and the White House on regional ocean and coastal issues of national significance, such as offshore oil and gas drilling.

The governors recognized that Washington, Oregon, and California “share a rich and diverse bounty of ocean and coastal resources that provide enormous economic, environmental, and social benefits for our states. Yet our citizens’ continued use and enjoyment of coastal and ocean resources is at risk.”

“Polluted waters, declining populations of fish and other marine life, degraded nearshore habitats, risks of severe storms and tsunamis and climate disruption are but a few examples of serious threats to the continued vitality of our ocean-dependent states,” the agreement states.

These are also issues called out in recent years by two national ocean commissions, both of which have called for immediate, meaningful action at all levels to restore and maintain the health of the oceans. Each of the three states has developed world class expertise in ocean sciences and academics, and established a track record of innovation and leadership on ocean and coastal issues domestically and internationally, the tri-state agreement notes.

“Our growing understanding of our relationship with the marine environment and its living and nonliving natural resources is leading us to explore ecosystem-based approaches to managing our coasts and oceans,” according to the agreement.

*(Continued on page 4)*

### ***Oceans Partnership*** (continued from page 3)

The governors have directed their respective agencies and staffs to work the business, environmental, governmental, educational, and academic communities to develop recommendations for this historic regional partnership.

Examples of state leadership on these issues include Washington's Puget Sound Partnership and Ocean Policy Working Group, Oregon's Ocean Policy Advisory Council, and California's Ocean Protection Council – all forums for important discussions about ocean issues.

**California Accomplishments on Ocean and Coastal Health:** Protecting the ocean and coast has long been a high priority for California. Californians showed their commitment when they passed the California Coastal Act in 1972 that established high standards for regulating coastal development. Other landmark laws include the California Ocean Resources Management Act, Marine Life Protection Act, Marine Life Management Act, and the California Ocean Protection Act. These laws require the state to implement ecosystem-based management using the best available scientific information.

The Pew Oceans Commission and the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy inspired a renewed dedication to ocean protection in California. Gov. Schwarzenegger released his Ocean Action Plan in Oct. 2004 that includes specific actions to enhance the protection and management of California's ocean and coastal resources. Significant progress has already been made in implementing the Ocean Action Plan.

**Governance: California called on the federal government to implement the U.S. and Pew Ocean Commission report recommendations.**

California officials sent letters and met with members of the White House Council on Environmental Quality and Congress on priority issues: maintaining California's moratorium on offshore oil and gas leasing; ratification of the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea;

supporting California's ocean observing systems; reauthorizing a strong Coastal Zone Management Act; and sponsoring the Western Governors Association Ocean Protection Resolution.

On the regional-level, California is working with Oregon and Washington to coordinate ocean management along the West Coast. Key actions include, developing the West Coast Govs' Agreement on Ocean Health; and coordinating ocean research priorities by developing a regional research plan with the West Coast Sea Grant programs.

On the State-level, Gov. Schwarzenegger signed a comprehensive package of ocean legislation into law, including, establishing the Ocean Protection Council:

- Minimizing impacts of bottom trawling;
- Reducing pollution from cruise ships;
- Increasing water quality monitoring; and
- Establishing standards for offshore aquaculture.

The Ocean Protection Council, established by state law in 2005, is a cabinet-level body charged with improving the management of California's ocean and coastal resources. Major council actions include, adopting policies to protect California's moratorium on offshore oil and gas leasing, promote research and monitoring, reduce environmental impacts of coastal power plants, and establish a marine protected area monitoring program; and approving \$17 million in projects that address coastal water quality, river restoration, research and monitoring, sea floor mapping, ecosystem-based management, derelict fishing gear, invasive species, and fisheries management.

**Research and Education:** In Sept. 2005, the Ocean Protection Council adopted the ***California Ocean and Coastal Information, Research and Outreach Strategy goals*** for California on research and education. Key actions include, committing \$1 million to ocean and coastal research; including state priorities in the national ocean research plan; launching a

(Continued on page 5)

**Oceans Partnership** (continued from page 4)  
media campaign to educate the public about the ocean; and organizing the California and the World Ocean '06 Conference held in Sept. 2006 in Long Beach.

**Stewardship: California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative to develop a network of marine protected areas off the coast of California.** The MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force, composed of prominent state policy makers, was assembled to guide this Initiative. The Resources Agency launched the MLPA Initiative in 2004 to establish protected areas along California's 1,100 mile coastline. Once established, these areas will help protect the diversity and abundance of marine life.

The Watershed Management Memorandum of Understanding was signed in Nov. 2004. An action plan to protect priority watersheds is currently being implemented. California is developing the Coastal Sediment Management Plan to address coastal erosion and port sediment management issues with a work group of federal and state government agencies. This plan will help the state more effectively manage coastal sediments by evaluating major sections of the coast and inland watersheds, instead of merely focusing on localized case-by-case issues.

**Economics and Funding: The Schwarzenegger administration has committed \$33.2 million in new state funds for ocean protection.** The funding includes \$26.2 million for the Ocean Protection Council and \$7 million for the Ocean Currents Monitoring System. The Ocean Economy report, released in July 2005, identified nearly \$43 billion in ocean dependent revenues. In July 2005, the state held the first ever Ocean Economic Summit to examine the implications of the report for ocean protection and management.

Sources:

Ocean Protection Council: [www.resources.ca.gov/copc](http://www.resources.ca.gov/copc)

Marine Life Protection Act: [www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov)

Pew Ocean Commission: [www.pewoceans.org](http://www.pewoceans.org)

US Comm.Ocean Policy: [www.oceancommission.gov](http://www.oceancommission.gov)

Ocean Comm. Alliance: [www.thankyouocean.org](http://www.thankyouocean.org) 

**Prop 84** (continued from page 1)  
**ELECTION 2006: Voters Approve Prop. 84 for State Park System**

The California counties where a majority voted "Yes" on Prop. 84: Sonoma (57%), Marin (61%), Yolo (56%), Solano (52%), Sacramento (53%), San Francisco (72%), Contra Costa (60%), Alameda (65%), San Mateo (61%), Santa Cruz (62%), Santa Clara (59%), Monterey (58%), San Benito (51%), Santa Barbara (51%), Ventura (52%), Los Angeles (60%), Riverside (51%), and Imperial (51%).

As the State's population of 37 million grows by more than 500,000 people every year, driven largely by immigration, the investment of the largest parks and water bond in state history will fund State Park projects, fund flood control, shore up aging levees in San Francisco Bay's delta, build drinking water treatment plants, restore salmon runs, and preserve beaches, forests, rivers and streams before they are lost to sprawl.

"We're going to see huge population growth in the next 25 years," Colleen Haggerty, a spokeswoman for the Yes on Proposition 84 campaign, told Paul Rogers of the San Jose Mercury News. "Our investments in water management and water safety haven't been keeping up. And protecting land and beaches are important quality-of-life issues as population grows."

Since 1928, when a \$6 million parks bond created the State Parks System, voters have approved about two-thirds of parks bonds put before them. Those measures have saved hundreds of thousands of California acres, from the Cargill salt ponds in the San Francisco Bay to Big Basin Redwoods State Park. With California facing 25 million new residents by 2040, the 2006 Prop 84 investment in infrastructure will keep pace with population growth.

Sources: Public Policy Institute of Calif.: [www.ppic.org](http://www.ppic.org)

Yes on Prop 84: [www.yeson84.com](http://www.yeson84.com)


California Secretary of State, Elections Division, results as of Nov. 14, 2006: [www.ss.ca.gov](http://www.ss.ca.gov)

Legislative Analyst Office: [www.lao.ca.gov](http://www.lao.ca.gov) 

## Which Park and Why?

1. What is the name of California's only town founded, financed and governed by African Americans?
2. What California lake is considered to be the oldest natural body of water on the North American continent?
3. Approximately how many students, primarily fourth graders, tour the California State Capitol each year?
4. Which California State Park unit is considered the world's biggest wildland park within the boundaries of a major city?
5. What is the Miwok name for Indian Grinding Rock State Historic Park?
6. Who or what is responsible for the appointment of State Park and Recreation Commission members?

### Answers:

1. Allensworth, which is now part of Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park; founded in 1908.
2. Mono Lake, home to Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve.
3. Almost 55,800 students, of which 40,000 students visit within the first six months of the year. These tours are administered by California State Capitol Museum guides.
4. Topanga State Park, in the Los Angeles region, comprises 12,655 acres and extends from the Santa Monica Mountains to the beaches of the Pacific Ocean.
5. Chaw'se which means "grinding rock". Chaw'se is only the second known site in California to combine petroglyphs with mortars. The carvings, which include animal and human tracks, circles, and wavy lines, are estimated to be two or three thousand years old.
6. The State Park and Recreation Commission's nine members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. 

## General Plan Update

### California State Parks' Auburn SRA Seeks Public Input

California State Parks is updating the General Plan for Auburn State Recreation Area (SRA). The second in a series of public workshops will be held in early 2007.

State Parks and the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation are working together to develop a Interim Resource Management Plan. Most of the land in the Auburn SRA is owned by the Bureau of Reclamation and managed by State Parks through an operations agreement.

Public involvement is critical to the success of the planning process. Public comment will be considered in developing the plan. The first workshop was held during the summer in Auburn providing an opportunity for the public to identify key issues and concerns to be addressed in the General Plan update.

The public meetings include brief presentations describing existing resources within the park, the planning update process and associated environmental documents, maps of specific sites, photos, opportunities for public involvement, and schedules of anticipated actions.

Interactive information stations based on geographic management areas within the SRA helped participants record their thoughts, concerns, and suggestions about the various recreation, management, and public safety issues being considered for the General Plan.

Revision of the General Plan for Auburn SRA is a two-year process. The plan will guide the long-term management of the SRA including the protection of natural and cultural resources, providing for and management of public use and recreation opportunities, identifying major public health and safety needs, and outlining the development of future facilities.

(Continued on page 7)



American River at Auburn SRA; with approximately one million visitors annually, Auburn State Recreation Area is one of the most popular units in the State Park System.

The Confluence of the North and Middle Fork of the American River, portions of the popular Western States Trail, the Mammoth Bar OHV Park, and Lake Clementine are all part of the unit. The current General Plan for Auburn SRA was completed in 1978. An Interim Resource Management Plan for the area was completed in 1992.



Rock formations at Auburn SRA



Forest Hill Bridge at Auburn SRA

Information on the Auburn State Recreation Area General Plan will also be posted on the California State Parks Web site under Auburn SRA at [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov) 

## Conservationist Edgar Wayburn turns 100

*Centenarians (aged 100 years or older)  
Projected to Increase 15-fold by 2050*

Dr. Edgar Wayburn, a physician and former president of the Sierra Club turned 100 on Sept. 17. He has been a major force in the preservation of 100 million acres of wilderness, from California's North Coast redwoods to the wilds of Alaska.

Amy Meyer, a colleague on one project, said: "The most amazing quality about Ed is that he doesn't put his ego in front of a project. What counts is the park." He is a revered public servant, although he held no government post said Bill Stall in his Los Angeles Times editorial, *Sacramento's Glory Days of Public Service*.

Dr. Wayburn, who lives in San Francisco, has served five times as the Sierra Club's elected President. Dr. Wayburn's book, *Your Land and Mine: Evolution of a Conservationist*, was published by Sierra Club Books in 2004. During a half-century of environmental achievements, Wayburn led and won campaigns to protect millions of acres of America's coasts, mountains, forests and tundra. Dr. Wayburn has left his mark in the following ways:

- Establishing the nation's largest urban park: the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, included in the park's 76,000-acre expanse are San Francisco's beaches, Alcatraz and the Presidio;
- Protecting over 100 million acres of Alaskan wild lands: with the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, this doubled the size of Denali National Park and created 10 new National Parks, including America's largest National Park, Wrangell-St. Elias. This victory, in 1980, doubled the size of America's National Park system;
- Creating Redwood National Park: and then doubling the park's size 10 years later;
- Increasing the acreage of California's Mount Tamalpais State Park: from 870 to 6,300 acres. Mount Tamalpais is now among the state's 10 most-visited state parks;
- Establishing the Point Reyes National Seashore;
- Establishing Wilderness areas throughout the West. 

## Land Conservation Tools: *The Effective Use of Agricultural Conservation Easements and the Williamson Act*

Open space lands in the form of parks, green belts, agricultural lands, and preserves are important to the health and well-being of society.

Perhaps this is best captured by a quote from Henry David Thoreau, “A town is saved, not more by the righteous men in it than by the woods and swamps that surround it.”

The purpose of this article is to provide a brief overview of agricultural conservation easements and the use of the Williamson Act (the California Land Conservation Act) to protect lands, and then direct the reader to other helpful resources and selected words of advice if one is considering entering into an agricultural easement or contract agreement.

### What is a Conservation Easement?

**Conservation Easements** are voluntary legal agreements, wherein a partial interest in property (typically the right to further develop residences or commercial sites on the property) is transferred to a nonprofit or local government by gift or purchase. As ownership changes, land remains subject to the easement restrictions. The goal is to maintain the conservation values of the land by removing the development pressures from the land.

### What is the Williamson Act?

**Williamson Act** (CA Conservation Act of 1965) was designed to preserve agricultural and open space lands by providing for ten-year term contracts (renewed annually) between private landowners and counties and cities to voluntarily restrict land to agricultural and open-space uses. In return, restricted parcels are assessed for property tax purposes at a rate consistent with their actual use, rather than potential market value.

Among the reasons why landowners place agricultural conservation easements on their land is that they often comes from longtime farming/ranching families that want to continue working the land but need additional capital for family, business or estate purposes. In addition to preserving agricultural land, conservation easements can be more broadly used for many purposes – to maintain habitat lands, to buffer urban growth and prevent unwanted development, to preserve open space and a scenic landscape and to maintain productive farm/ranch lands among other reasons.

Agriculture is the cornerstone of California’s economy and this state is the nation’s leader in agricultural production. An orientation toward export crops has always given agriculture in California an industrial boost and the results have been remarkable. With gross receipts of \$30 billion a year, agriculture is one of California’s largest industries. However, California’s rapid urbanization has meant that agriculture has been forced to compete for land with urban developers who can typically afford to pay a higher price for land.

*“If your farming return is \$2,000 to \$3,000 per acre, and a developer offers you \$40,000 an acre, what are you going to do?”* said Stockton horse breeder/developer Fritz Grupe to the Modesto Bee, as quoted in Great Valley Center’s *Agricultural Land Conservation*.

“Private, local land trusts know their neighbors, and can work with willing sellers to help develop easement terms to meet the needs of their farm or ranch. Farmers and ranchers can work with their local land trust to access experts to help with the real estate issues and find funds to purchase the easement,” said Aimee Rutledge, Executive Director, Sacramento Valley Conservancy.

Conservation easements and the Williamson Act have been used by land trusts and local agencies for many years as effective tools for the protection of land from the march of urban development.

(Continued page 9)

## **Conservation Easements** (continued from page 8)

Although farm and rangeland are not often considered a “natural resource,” the lands do provide widespread protection for sensitive natural and cultural resources. Agricultural lands also provide a buffer to recreational areas such as beaches, rivers and trails that are adjacent to publicly owned properties and on rare occasions may provide public access if acceptable to the landowner. Protected farm and grazing lands help protect migratory corridors for wide-ranging animals such as mountain lions, big horn sheep and Swainson’s Hawk which do not confine their movements to the boundaries of a park. Unfortunately, more and more of California’s farmlands are converted to urban uses. More than 27 million acres of land – more than a quarter of the entire state – is cultivated and thousands of acres of farmland are being converted to urban use every year.

### **Statistics for California:**

- Farms: 79,631
- Land in farms: 27,589,027 acres
- Total land area: 99,813,971 acres
- Agricultural land converted to developed uses: 413,300 acres

Source: Farmland Information Center:

[www.farmlandinfo.org/california](http://www.farmlandinfo.org/california)

### **Selected Land Conservation Resources:**

In 2006, the State Resources Agency and State Dept. of Conservation announced a “win-win farmland preservation and city development project,” the project exchanged an agricultural easement covering 900 acres south of Lathrop for development rights within the city limits.

Dept of Conservation: [www.conservation.ca.gov](http://www.conservation.ca.gov)

The Hearst Ranch Conservation Plan, created in 2005, includes 13 miles of coastline for public access and a conservation easement that covers the 80,000 acres of the Hearst Ranch: [http://www.resources.ca.gov/hearst\\_ranch.html](http://www.resources.ca.gov/hearst_ranch.html)

The 25-million acre Sierra Nevada Conservancy, created in 2004, works with local governments to conserve natural resources, protect the environment, improve recreational opportunities, and enhance economic development in the Sierra: [www.sierranevadaconservancy.ca.gov](http://www.sierranevadaconservancy.ca.gov)

### **Selected Land Conservation Resources:**

American Farmland Trust: [www.farmland.org](http://www.farmland.org)

Calif. Council of Land Trusts: [www.cclt.org](http://www.cclt.org)

CaLSIP: [www.ceres.ca.gov/calsip](http://www.ceres.ca.gov/calsip)

Calif. Dept. of Conservation: [www.conservation.ca.gov](http://www.conservation.ca.gov)

Farmland Info.Center: [www.farmlandinfo.org/](http://www.farmlandinfo.org/)

Great Valley Center: [www.greatvalley.org](http://www.greatvalley.org)

Calif. Legacy Project Archive: [www.legacy.ca.gov](http://www.legacy.ca.gov)

Land Trust Alliance: [www.lta.org](http://www.lta.org)

No.Calif. Reg. Land Trust: [www.landconservation.org](http://www.landconservation.org)

The Nature Conservancy: [www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org)

Rangeland Trust: [www.rangelandtrust.org](http://www.rangelandtrust.org)

Sierra Nev. Cons: [www.sierranevadaconservancy.ca.gov](http://www.sierranevadaconservancy.ca.gov)

USDA Economic Research: [www.ers.usda.gov](http://www.ers.usda.gov)

Wildlife Conservation Board: [www.wcb.ca.gov](http://www.wcb.ca.gov) 

## **Tony Look: ‘The John Muir of Santa Cruz’**

The late state Sen. Henry Mello once called Tony Look Santa Cruz County’s own John Muir.

Tony Look built a coalition with the Save-the-Redwoods League to preserve redwoods near Big Basin’s Berry Creek Falls and preserved 320 acres through fundraising with the Sempervirens Fund. He was the primary force behind the expansion of Castle Rock, Butano and Big Basin Redwoods State Parks. Tony Look died in August at age 88 and a memorial service was held at Big Basin in October 2006.

“When I came back out of the service, Humboldt was a changed county,” Tony Look recalled in a 1988 interview with the Santa Cruz Sentinel.

“During the war they cut the redwoods like matchsticks. There was flooding and erosion — all of the problems inherent when trees are taken off the land in reckless fashion.”

Tony Look received the “Restore the Earth Award” from the United Nations, 1988; the “Golden Bear Award” from the California Department of Parks and Recreation, 1974; and the “Forest Conservationist of the Year Award” from the California Wildlife Federation.

Sources: Sempervirens: [www.sempervirens.org](http://www.sempervirens.org)

Santa Cruz Sentinel: [www.santacruzsentinel.com](http://www.santacruzsentinel.com)

Save-the-Redwoods: [www.savetheredwoods.org](http://www.savetheredwoods.org) 



*California State Assembly Majority Leader Dario Frommer meets with legendary actor, director, and California State Park and Recreation Commission Vice Chair Clint Eastwood to discuss legislation.*

## Urban Park Act 2006 Update

Working together, Gov. Schwarzenegger and the Democratic Legislature passed, AB 1559 by Assemblymember Dario Frommer (D-Los Angeles) - the Urban Park Act of 2006.

"I am thankful for the opportunity I've had for the past six years to serve the people of California as a member of the state assembly," said Assemblymember Frommer. "In that time, I'm proud to have made a difference in helping city neighborhoods get new parks."

The Urban Park Act authorizes California State Parks to award grants to projects that will result in the creation of new recreational opportunities and place higher priorities on grant applications for projects that create new parks in locations where none currently exist. It also includes community gardens in the definition of eligible facilities.

Criteria for awarding grants under the Urban Park Act of 2006 also includes projects that are accessible to pedestrians, bicycles, public transportation, and encourage use by local residents.

The Urban Park Act will provide safe recreation opportunities for children; positive outlets for youth to participate in healthy park programs; and assist in meeting the recreation and social needs of senior citizens.

The Urban Park Act of 2006 modifies the list of criteria that requires California State Parks to assign a higher priority to project applications where service areas specifically:

- Have little or no park access or facilities;
- Will replace a brownfield;
- Utilize partnerships for infill, transit-oriented or affordable housing developments;
- Create new parks in locations where none currently exists;
- Are easily accessible to pedestrians, bicycles, and public transit, and encourages use by local residents.

One of the goals of the Urban Parks Act 2006 is to increase park facilities and access to neighborhood parks in underserved urban communities.

Community gardens, now among the priorities for receiving grant funds, provide open space, healthy food, a connection to nature, and educational opportunities for urban dwellers.

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) and the City of Burbank supported the Urban Park Act of 2006 because community gardens can be especially valuable to residents in densely populated urban areas and can serve as an important food source for low-income communities.

TPL's Parks for People — Los Angeles program targets California's biggest and most challenging metropolitan area. Within the next five years, TPL hopes to help create 25 new urban parks, playgrounds, recreational fields, community gardens, nature preserves, and pocket parks in metropolitan LA.

Sources:

Legislative Information: [www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov)

CA State Assembly: [www.assembly.ca.gov](http://www.assembly.ca.gov)

CA State Parks: [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)

Trust for Public Land: [www.tpl.org/](http://www.tpl.org/) 



## Bear Facts

**Issues, Trends, Tools and  
Information from California  
State Parks' Planning Division**

**Chief - Wayne Woodroof**

**California State Parks  
Planning Division**

P.O. Box 942896

Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

TEL: 916-653-9901

FAX: 916-653-4458

Email: [planning@parks.ca.gov](mailto:planning@parks.ca.gov)

Web: [www.parks.ca.gov/bearfacts](http://www.parks.ca.gov/bearfacts)

Editor - Brian Miller

[bmille@parks.ca.gov](mailto:bmille@parks.ca.gov) 


**Save-the-Date:**

## 22nd California Trails & Greenways Conference

The 22nd California Trails and Greenways Conference will be May 10-12, 2007 at the Lake Natoma Inn located in Folsom, California.


This year's conference is themed "Building Knowledge, Building Trails" and will focus on urban trails, backcountry trails, and trail applications. The conference will host several workshops and sessions and provide an opportunity for trail professionals, statewide, to network and advocate for trails in their community.

If you would like to assist or have questions or suggestions regarding the 22nd California Trails and Greenways Conference, please contact Nicole Franckowiak in the Statewide Trails Office at 916/653-0386 or by email: [nfranckowiak@parks.ca.gov](mailto:nfranckowiak@parks.ca.gov)

Check for updated conference information on the California State Parks' Statewide Trails Website at: [www.parks.ca.gov/trails](http://www.parks.ca.gov/trails) 

### ***New Reports: 2006 Planning Milestones & 05/06 Statistical Report***

The *2006 Planning Milestones* and the *05/06 Statistical Report* are now available. These comprehensive reports include information on all of the State Park System's 278 units and properties and are available in hardcopy as well as PDF format. The only current State Park System map is included inside the *Planning Milestones* publication.

These reports list major accomplishments, comparisons to past history, and the current status of all park units and properties. They also provide the specific identity, existing general plans, and other valuable research data of all basic classified units and major unclassified properties that constitute the official State Park System. To request a hard copy of these documents contact the Planning Division at (916) 653-9901 or at [planning@parks.ca.gov](mailto:planning@parks.ca.gov). To view both reports and the full color map online visit: [www.parks.ca.gov/planning](http://www.parks.ca.gov/planning) 

### ***Public Policy Institute of California Report: Obesity among California Adults: Racial & Ethnic Differences***

Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) study, *Obesity among California Adults: Racial and Ethnic Differences* finds that Californians vary widely when it comes to obesity rates, and that only part of the disparity can be explained by differing social and economic characteristics.

The findings have particular policy relevance because of the state's racial and ethnic composition and – given the economic and social costs of obesity – culturally-tailored, long-term obesity prevention programs are needed. Obesity difference can be attributed to socio-economic factors, poverty, access to health care and employment, smoking, drinking, and/or walking. Adult obesity more than doubled in California between 1990 and 2003 among both sexes and all racial and ethnic groups.

Source: [www.ppic.org](http://www.ppic.org) 